

Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1947

WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A n n u a l R e p o r t
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1947

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health

G.A.W. NEILL, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(Resigned 31/8/47)

W.D. SWINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1/10/47)

Sanitary Inspector

Appointment vacant till 1/11/47.
Emergency duties performed by

F.W. HARPER, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

N.R. BOLTON, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
(Appointed 1/11/47)



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To the Chairman and Members,
Woodhall Spa Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Flury and Gentlemen,

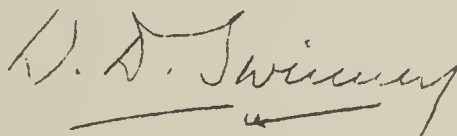
I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1947, prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and directions applicable thereto.

That this Report is presented at a date later than I would normally desire, is intentional. As you will recall, I did not become your Medical Officer of Health till 1st October, 1947 and it seemed desirable that my first Annual Report, covering a period, for three-quarters of which I was unacquainted with the District, should be delayed until I had gathered rather more than first impressions.

I have tried as far as possible, in the interests of material economy and of economy of the time of Members of the Council to reduce the length of this Report to a minimum.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks and appreciation for the helpful way in which Members of this Council have accepted me, not only as Medical Officer of Health, but as a resident in the Urban District, and voice the belief that our association will always be one of mutual usefulness and harmony.

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. D. Twining', with a horizontal line underneath.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT: 1874 acres.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION: 1563.

DENSITY OF POPULATION: 0.8340 persons per acre

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 579 *

SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE: £43. 0. 8d.

RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT: £11,363

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

					Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	22	9	31
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	-	1	<u>1</u>
							<u>32</u>

Birth Rate per thousand estimated population: 20.47

Still Births

					Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	<u>-</u>
							<u>1</u>

Still birth rate per thousand total (Live and Still)births: 30.30

Total birth rate (Live and Still) per thousand population: 21.11

Deaths

Males	Females	Total
10	17	27

Crude death rate per thousand estimated population: 17.27

This figure includes the increase over the 1946 figure occasioned by conversion into flats, reconditioning of war-damaged houses in addition to new building.

Maternal Mortality

Number of women dying as a result of childbirth.

(Headings No. 29 and No. 30 in the Registrar General's Short List)

	Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total Births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	-	-

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births
(Live and Still): 00.00

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

Total No. of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	1
All infants per thousand live births...	...	31.25
Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate births	...	32.26
Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate births	...	00.00

Other Statistics

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	6
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...	-
Heart Disease (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	11

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short List

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	-	-	-
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9.	Influenza	-	-	-
10.	Measles	-	-	-
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	-
13.	Cancer of the Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (male), uterus (female)	1	-	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	1	2	3
17.	Diabetes	-	-	-
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	-	4	4
19.	Heart Diseases	5	6	11
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	-	2	2
21.	Bronchitis	-	-	-
22.	Pneumonia	-	1	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-
25.	Diarrhoea under two years	-	-	-
26.	Appendicitis	-	-	-
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis	-	-	-
29.	Puerperal and Post abortion Sepsis	-	-	-
30.	Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
31.	Premature Birth	-	-	-
32.	Congenital malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases	1	-	1
33.	Suicide	-	-	-
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	-	-	-
36.	All other Causes	-	1	1
TOTALS		10	17	27

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were no serious outbreaks of any infectious disease during the year, and it is particularly gratifying to note that no case of Diphtheria occurred and that, despite the country-wide epidemic of Poliomyelitis in the latter half of 1947, there was not a single case in the Urban District.

Infectious Disease Notifications

Disease	Civilian	Service	Treated in Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-
Pneumonia	9	-	1	-
Measles	6	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	9	-	-	-
All Others	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	28	-	1	-

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31.12.47. i.e. Born in year	Under 5					5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1938-1942	1933-1937	
No. imm- unised	1	19	20	30	31	102	94	297
Estimated Mid-year child pop- ulation 1947	Children under five 134					Children 5 - 14 212		346

HEALTH SERVICES - GENERAL PROVISION

Nursing in the Home

The Woodhall Spa Nursing Association employs a certified Midwife, also employed by the Lindsey County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936, whose services are also available for the adjacent rural parishes.

Laboratory Facilities

- Bacteriological - The Public Health Laboratory, St. Edmund's Chambers, Bank Street, Lincoln.
- Chemical (when required) - Mr. W.W. Taylor, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst and Consulting Chemist, 1 Regent Street, Nottingham.

Ambulance Provision

(1) Accident and General

This service is provided by a voluntary Committee whose modern ambulance, garaged in the Urban District, also serves the neighbouring Parishes.

(2) Infectious Diseases

The transport of such cases is dependent on the Ambulance, facilities provided by those Authorities which accept into their Isolation Hospitals cases of infectious disease from the Urban District.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

The Education, Maternity and Child Welfare, and Tuberculosis Authority for the District is Lindsey County Council, which provides necessary Clinic facilities at Rolleston House, Bridge Street, Horncastle, where Clinics are held as under:-

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Day and Time</u>
Ante-natal	First and third Tuesdays of the month. 10 a.m.
Infant Welfare	First and third Tuesdays of the month, (Doctor in attendance) 2 p.m.
	Other Tuesdays (Health Visitor in attendance) 2 p.m.

School (Minor Ailments)	Thursday 10 a.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Thursday 10 a.m.
Ophthalmic	By arrangement
Ear Nose and Throat	By arrangement
Dental	By arrangement

Similar facilities are provided at the County Council's Clinic, Lindum Hill, Lincoln, and plans are in hand to provide School Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre services in the village of Coningsby, reasonably accessible to residents of Woodhall Spa, and not so far removed as Horncastle.

HOSPITALS

General Hospitals (Local Authority)

Lindsey County Council operates at Louth the County Infirmary, providing full General Hospital Services, which are available to the residents of the Urban District.

General Hospitals (Voluntary)

Lincoln County Hospital, Lincoln, and the Horncastle War Memorial Hospital and Dispensary supply services which may likewise be utilised by Woodhall residents.

The Alexandra Hospital, within the Urban District boundary, deals entirely with Rheumatic and Arthritic conditions and operates in close conjunction with the valuable treatment facilities of the Spa Baths.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals

The isolation and treatment of such cases, requiring hospitalisation, must be dealt with as and when the need arises, and for this service the District depends on the helpfulness of such Local Authorities as will accept infectious patients into their isolation hospitals.

The arrangement is far from satisfactory and, were it not for the altered circumstances which will follow on the coming into effect of the National Health Service Act, would call for revision.

Tuberculosis Hospitals and Sanatoria

Necessary institutional treatment of all forms of Tuberculosis is supplied by Lindsey County Council, either in

its own establishments at Branston, Louth or Brumby, or by co-operation with other Authorities.

It is greatly to be regretted that lack of Nursing Staff more than actual lack of beds, sometimes necessitates periods of waiting before admission to sanatoria is possible.

Maternity Hospitals

Provided by Lindsey County Council, as Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Urban District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supplies

The water supply for the District is the same as in previous Annual Reports. The quality continues to be extremely satisfactory and there is no lack of an adequate supply.

Fourteen samples of the main supply were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. All were satisfactory except one which, it is believed, was accidentally contaminated before reaching the laboratory, or at the time of sampling.

One chemical analysis of the water was performed, the result being again satisfactory.

The Council's employees engaged on water duties, were investigated to exclude enteric infection or carrier condition and were found to be clear of all risk from such a source.

The Council's scheme to extend the water mains into neighbouring parishes, which, although outwith the Urban District lie within its Statutory Area of Supply, did not materialise during the year, but it is hoped that all obligations in this direction will be met, as soon as present difficulties permit. These plans must be regarded as urgent.

Sewage Disposal

Throughout the year the Urban District sewers and sewage disposal plant, which are as described in the Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1946, have proved themselves adequate to deal with the needs of the area. It is, in fact, justifiable to infer that there is a considerable reserve capacity, when it is remembered how great was the increase in resident population during war years.

Rivers and Streams

The River Witham, bounding the Urban District on the South West, is supervised by the Lindsey County Council as Rivers Pollution Authority, and during the year there have been no complaints of nuisances arising from this source.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Collection

The Council carries this out by direct labour using a "Karrier Bantam" motor vehicle for the purpose. A weekly collection is made from all houses in the District; and from hotels and business premises twice weekly.

In addition the Council organizes the systematic collection of salvage.

The refuse tip is situated well away from dwelling houses and is carefully supervised to prevent vermin infestation.

Swimming Baths

The public open-air swimming bath in the Jubilee Park, Stixwold Road, is managed by the Council. Numerous bacteriological examinations of the water have shown it to be of a high degree of purity and estimations of residual chlorine, made at frequent intervals, have shown that the filtration and chlorinating plant is being operated correctly and to the best advantage.

Schools

Owing to the post-war building difficulties there has been no improvement during the year in the antiquated accommodation of the Woodhall Spa C.E. Public Elementary School.

A new canteen has, however, been built in the School grounds. Exception is taken to the design of this building, which is so planned that a lavatory communicates directly with the kitchen, and the attention of the County Medical Officer and Chief Schools Medical Officer has been drawn to this defect.

Mosquitoes

The Ante-mosquito campaign of 1946 was repeated again this year, and it is believed that by the combination of the efforts of the Council and many co-operative rate-payers the mosquito nuisance was substantially reduced.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

The previous unsatisfactory state of affairs, whereby the Council had no Sanitary Inspector of its own, but in an emergency borrowed the services of the Inspector of Horncastle R.D.C., continued until 1st November, 1947, when the Council appointed its own Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. It is thought that such a combined appointment is not ideal, as the manifold duties which a surveyor has to perform - duties which are ever increasing with new legislation - too often leave insufficient time for Sanitary and Public Health work, but the situation is unavoidable in a small authority, unable to justify the expense of two separate appointments, and likewise unable to reach an agreement with neighbouring Local Government bodies whereby separate appointments of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor might serve more than one District.

Report of Work done by Sanitary Inspector

This refers largely to the last two months of the year the period during which the Council had its own Sanitary Inspector, as it is only during that time that accurate records are available, although prior to then, emergency sanitary work was carried out.

I	Total No. of new houses erected during the year	
	(a) By the Local Authority	11
	(b) By other Local Authorities	Nil
	(c) By other bodies or persons	2
II	Inspection of dwelling houses	
	1.(a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	3
	(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	5
	2.No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3
III	Remedy of defects without service of formal notices	7
IV	Action under statutory powers	Nil
V	Bakchouses	
	(1) No. in District	2
	(2) No. of underground bakchouses	Nil
	(3) No. of inspections	4
	(4) Defects remedied	1

VI	Cowsheds	
	(1) No. on Register	4
	(2) No. of inspections	6
	(3) Contraventions of Regulations	1
	(4) Contraventions remedied	1
VII	Dairies and Milkshops	
	(1) No. on Register	2
	(2) No. of inspections	1
	(3) Contraventions of Regulations	Nil
	(4) Contraventions remedied	Nil
VIII	Shops Act, 1934	
	(1) Number of shops inspected	9
IX	Water Supply	
	(1) Percentage of Houses supplied by public supply	97%
	(2) No. of new cisterns provided	1
	(3) No. of samples of public supply submitted for	
	(a) Bacteriological examination	14
	(b) Chemical Analysis	1
X	Drainage and Sewerage	
	(1) No. of water closets repaired	3
	(2) No. of drains examined tested, exposed, etc.	3
	(3) No. of drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	3
XI	Disinfection	
	(1) No. of rooms disinfected after ordinary infectious disease	2
XII	House Refuse	
	(1) No. of complaints of non-removal	6
	(2) No. of complaints remedied	6
XIII	Nuisances	
	(1) No. of nuisances	2
	(2) No. of nuisances abated by informal action	2
	(Type of nuisances - dampness)	

